(c) by when this system is proposed to be set up; and

(d) whether it would find out the earthquakes from the atmospheric and ocean current?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India Meteorological Department (IMD) has commissioned a system to monitor earthquakes within and outside the country for all significant earthquakes, which affect India. The system consists of different types of observatories spread all over the country. Data from 40 stations are electronically collected and transmitted to central processing unit at New Delhi for accurate estimation of location of the earthquake (epicenter), time of occurrence and magnitude (size) of the earthquake. The estimation of intensity over a wider affected area around the epicenter is done through post earthquake surveys.

(c) Additional in the aftermath of the Great Sumatra Earthquake of 26th December, 2004, Ministry of Earth Sciences has set up an Early Warning System for Tsunamis at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad. As part of this, a most modern real time seismic monitoring network has been made operational with four field stations at Bhuj, Hyderabad, Chennai and Shillong and two Central Receiving Stations at Hyderabad and New Delhi already functional. Installation of 13 more stations is in progress. The system has facilities for real time data transmission from field stations and automatic estimation of location, time of occurrence and magnitude of the earthquake over the north Indian Ocean zone.

(d) The new system does not depend upon observations of atmosphere or ocean current for detecting the earthquakes. It is based on sensors for detecting very small displacements of the ground during earthquakes. However, instrumentation commissioned over the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea as a part of Tsunami Early Warning System measures/monitors sea level changes, sea bottom pressure changes, wave amplitudes and tides in real time following earthquake occurrence in the north Indian Ocean.

Instruments/computers for weather forecasting

88. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the instruments/computers available for weather forecasting, ocean information and tropical meteorology are completely out-dated;

(b) if so, whether Government are planning to buy/produce super computers for tracking changes in the climate of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Not totally, Sir. Although, India Meteorological Department (IMD) has been upgrading its instruments/computers from time to time, there exists an urgent requirement of rapidly upgrading and expanding the density of observational network and enhancing forecasting capabilities by employing advanced prediction models/tools.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has taken major initiative for procurement of Supercomputers/High Performance Computers (HPCs) for use in its various centres—IMD, National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), Noida (U.P.), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune and Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad. HPC infrastructure shall be used to run advanced numerical models for weather, ocean state and climate prediction. Actions for procurement of HPCs have already been initiated.

(d) A sum of Rs. 100 crores is provided for the HPC Procurements during the first 2-years of the XI plan. Allocation of Rs. 700 crores is kept for observational network modernization during the first 2-3 years of the XI plan.

Shortage of food processing units in Rajasthan

89. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of food processing units in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the incentives Government plan to give for setting up more such units in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has not conducted any specific survey of the demand and availability of Food Processing Units in the State of Rajasthan. However, the Ministry extends financial assistance in the form of Grants-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs for Technology Upgradation/ Modernization/Establishment of Food Processing Units in various States of the country including Rajasthan. The Ministry has provided financial assistance of Rs. 840.32 lakhs (47 proposals) for Setting up, Expansion and Modernization of food processing industries and Rs. 4992.87 lakhs for setting up of 4 food parks in various locations in the State of Rajasthan during the 10th Plan period.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance for Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas. This scheme is being continued in the Eleventh Plan also.

In the Eleventh Plan, the Ministry proposes to implement various schemes to attract private sector investment in the food processing sector. A revamped Scheme for Infrastructure Development under which, it will give financial assistance in the form of grant for setting up of Mega Food Parks, cold chain infrastructure, value added centres and packaging centres preferably in the PPP Model. The Mega Food Park Scheme will provide backward and forward linkages as well as reliable and sustainable supply chain. The Cluster based demand driven approach will provide linkages from farm to market with linkages from local to regional level through Primary Processing Centres, Collection Centres, Strategic Distribution Centre-cum-Cold Chain at critical locations--having Controlled Atmosphere storage and distribution centres where large quantities can be stored and supplied to distribution centres for fresh sale and to processing industries for processing. In the Eleventh Plan, it has also been proposed to continue assistance in the form of grant to private sector/public sector organizations through schemes for setting up of Food Testing Labs, Implementation of Quality Systems such as HACCP, ISO-9000, GHP and GMP Practices, Promotion of Research and Development, Capacity Building and Human Resource Development and other promotional activities with higher levels of assistance. In addition, a new scheme for Upgradation of Quality of street foods has also been proposed to be implemented. The emphasis will be on building strong linkages with agriculture and horticulture, enhancing project implementation capabilities, increased involvement of private sector investments and support for creation of rural infrastructure to ensure a steady supply of good quality agri-horticulture produce.